

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 18-24, 26, 28-48 and 52-54 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the listing of claims above, claims 3, 8-9, 13, 18-19, 23, 28-29, 31-35, 39, 43, 45, 47 and 52-54 have been amended and claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-12, 14, 16, 20-22, 24, 26, 30, 44, 46 and 48 were canceled.

Applicant rewrote dependent claims 3, 13, 23 and 52-54, which were each objected to by the Examiner, into independent form incorporating the limitations of the independent claims from which it depended. For example, claim 3 was rewritten to include the limitations from claim 1, claim 13 was rewritten to include the limitations of claim 11, claim 23 was rewritten to include the limitations of claim 21, and so on. Applicant further amended several dependent claims to depend from the rewritten claims. For example, dependent claim 8 was amended to depend from amended claim 3. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 8-12, 14, 18-22, 24, 28-30 and 43-48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and objected to claims 3, 6, 13, 16, 23, 26, 31-42 and 52-54 and the drawings.

Applicant has either canceled each claim rejected by the Examiner or rewrote each claim objected to by the Examiner to depend from an allowable claim. Therefore, Applicant is not required to provide a response to the Examiner's rejections.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone conference conducted on March 13, 2007 to discuss the drawings submitted by Applicant on August 24, 2001. As a result of this telephone conference, the Examiner acknowledged that the drawings are acceptable.

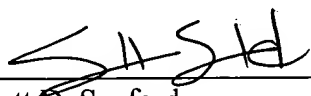
Additional Remarks

In light of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3548 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time or addition of new claims, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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